



Paul Frederick DeWinter

JUL 30, 1948 - APR 10, 2022



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Paul Frederick DeWinter

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Paul Frederick DeWinter, LT / US Navy (Retired) died 10 April 2022 at Lakeland Regional Medical Center in Lakeland, Florida with his beloved family by his side. He was the husband to the late “KC” Katherine Suzie Jarrett, brother to Maryanne Stevens, and father to Mike and Sean DeWinter.

Paul was born in Beverly, Massachusetts to Fred and Mary DeWinter on 30 July 1948. By all accounts Paul was a good, spirited child who served as a protector to his younger sister and at times a caregiver to his mother. The family moved from Massachusetts to Lakeland, Florida in 1960 based on the tenets of selfless service to best support the health of his mother, Mary DeWinter. Paul graduated from Lakeland High School with the class of 1966 and continued his journey of service entering the US Navy in 1967.

Paul served for 25 years in the US Navy aboard many ships during multiple deployments while mentoring others in defense of this great nation. He was a Line Duty Officer obtaining the ranks of Chief Petty Officer, then Warrant Officer, and later becoming a Commissioned Officer before retiring in 1992. Paul was a technical expert - - his experience and knowledge was profound in both supporting the military and paving his way in the civilian sector. Upon retiring from the US Navy he served with a number of IT related businesses until ultimately retiring in 2018 at the age of 70.

But Paul was much more....

Paul deeply loved - - he was passionate, thoughtful, altruistic, catering, and humble. Paul was kind to everyone and went out of his way to make people smile. Often, Paul would not be afraid to create a scene or go the extra mile to bring humor to a situation. While some may have been a bit embarrassed, Paul was not afraid to raise the spirits or compliment others solely to lighten the mood and make others feel better. Paul experienced the ups and downs of life between loss and divorce to meeting his soulmate and best friend “KC”. Both attended Lakeland High School graduating in the class of 1966 only to reunite at their 40th reunion in 2006. Their beautiful



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union on 11 November 2011 at The Terrace Hotel and Lake Mirror brought together so many friends. Together they wrote poetry, traveled the world, served on the alumni committee, and loved their many animals. Both KC and Paul enjoyed spending time in Erwin, Tennessee attending the Apple Festival and storytelling events in neighboring Jonesborough, TN.

Paul loved his wife and mourned her 2020 loss with a forever broken heart. However, looking back, his last 12 years were amazing. Paul returned home to Lakeland Florida and was surrounded by friends and family. Paul had a wonderful relationship with his sister, Maryanne Stevens who after many years of serving as her protector and confidant, the two grew more to being the closest of friends; thus, she cared for him. Maryanne is a gift from heaven and cared for Paul like no other - - she is an angel and Paul needed her during the difficult times. Paul was a magnificent father and friend. Again, being an expert of life circumstances, he would note, "I may not be able to fix it, and, our stories may be different, I am with you...you are not alone".

Paul - you are not alone. You have left a mark on this world and with so many. You are a kind soul and an absolute gentleman. You have helped more than you will ever know and have given far more than one should. Your story can never be reduced to a brief obituary - - you, Paul DeWinter are a legend and have made the world a better place.

LT Paul F. DeWinter (Ret) is survived in death by his sons Michael David (wife: Kathy) and Sean Patrick (wife: Jennifer) DeWinter; his sister, Maryanne Stevens (Husband: Rick), his nephews Daniel Stevens (wife: Elizabeth) and Brian Stevens (wife: Tiana). Paul was often surrounded by the love, sounds, and attention of so many grandchildren as well as small nephews and nieces cheering support and admiration.

"Fair Winds and Following Seas"

A memorial service will be conducted graveside at the Oak Hill Cemetery on Monday 18 April 2022. Guests are asked to arrive to the 1727 Bartow Road location no later than 8:15 am on this date; the procession will begin at 8:30 am.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation to the spcaflorida.org in honor of Paul F. DeWinter




Events

Paul Frederick DeWinter

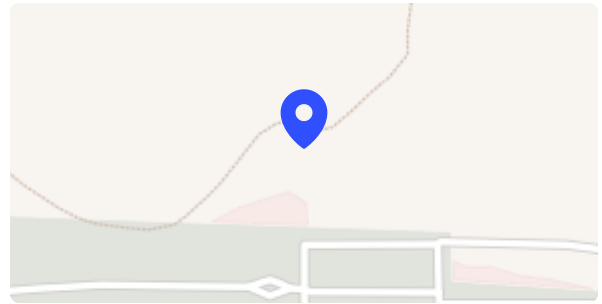
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Graveside Service

 **Monday**, April 18, 2022

 8:30 AM ET

 **Oak Hill Burial Park**
4620 US Highway 98 S, Lakeland FL 33812





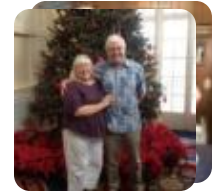
Tribute Wall

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Tiana shared 2 photos to the **Memories Album** album.



July 30 at 8:42 AM



Gentry Morrison shared an album called **Graveside Service Video**.



April 19 at 7:06 AM



Fred Cordova posted:

I have fond memories of Paul and I working together at Tempo Research. He always had a smile and story to tell. And, a great story teller I may add. Paul quickly became an expert in all aspects of the product lines and lead the development of our most successful product introduction. Paul was not only a work colleague, but a good friend. Always smiling, always thoughtful and he brought donuts every Friday. Paul will be sorely missed. Hold the memories of those that have passed. Keep them in your mind and heart. Share their stories with those you love. They will live on and never leave you. Fred Cordova

April 18 at 2:07 PM

MS **Maryanne Stevens** June 20 at 4:50 AM

Thank you for your kind comments about my brother. I also appreciate talking to you during the most difficult days after his death. We miss him so much. He always spoke so highly of you and I know enjoyed his time working with you as well. Blessings to you and your family. Maryanne



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AL

Angela Smith Lester posted:

Paul became a friend later in our lives, even though we shared the same high school class of 66. It was easy to see the kindness and consideration that Paul showed to all his friends. He will be missed at our Reunion Committee meetings. God Bless his kind spirit.

April 18 at 11:22 AM

MS

Maryanne Stevens June 20 at 4:53 AM

Outside of marrying his soul mate, KC aka Suzie, being a part of the reunion committee and reconnecting with classmates was one of the great joys in his life. Everyone welcomed him warmly and made his transition back home to Lakeland an exciting new chapter in his life.

JC

Jennie Concannon posted:

Paul was a treasured friend and we considered him family. We are all so grateful for the time that we got to spend together and for the great memories. You will be missed my friend. Hope you find KC in heaven. May you both RIP together. The Concannon Family. Steve, Jennie, Bobby, Mike & Paula & Chris.

April 17 at 6:08 PM

MS

Maryanne Stevens June 20 at 4:54 AM

Paul loved your family and told many a story of your times together. Thank you for the love you shared with him during a difficult time in his life. Blessings to you and your family.

PC

Pam C posted:

Paul was an amazing Navy Officer. We were stationed in Rota, Spain together. He mentored me in the telephone system and was always available to answer any questions I had. A good friend.

April 17 at 4:52 AM

MS

Maryanne Stevens June 20 at 4:58 AM

Paul shared many a story about his time in Spain and your name came up frequently. He treasured your friendship and respected your abilities. Thank you for sharing your comments on him. I miss him so much, but am finally able to face some of the tasks that follow the death of a loved one. Blessings to you and your family, Maryanne (sister).



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Stan Allsopp posted:

So very sorry to hear of Paul's passing. We were stationed together in Rota Spain. Paul was the 'Telephone Officer', which may not sound like much but his job was essential in keeping the basewide telephone system (which supported both US and Spanish forces) up and running, despite antiquated equipment and lines. Paul became a self-taught expert on the archaic switching system, and he regularly amazed me with innovative work-arounds for mechanical aspects that had no parts support. His Spanish workers truly loved and respected him! We shared more than a few 'sea stories' over a libation during that tour. A good friend, and a fine shipmate. Fair winds and following seas!

April 16 at 8:17 AM



Maryanne Stevens June 20 at 5:02 AM

Thank you for your comments Stan. Your name came up frequently in many a Spain story. I know how much Paul enjoyed working and relaxing with you. He is dearly missed by his family here. Blessings to you and yours, Maryanne (Sis)



Sherry Woods Russell posted:

Paul was an integral part of our Reunion Committee (LHS Class of 1966) and a sweet, kind, loving man. His loss is heartbreaking.

April 15 at 5:48 PM



Maryanne Stevens June 20 at 5:05 AM

Thanks Sherry. You and Bill were such good friends to Paul. He loved you guys and being part of the reunion committee. You are a blessing to us as we continue to grieve and miss him every day.



Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes shared an album called **Memories Album**.



April 14 at 4:14 PM



Anonymous sent a Strength & Solace Spray to the DeWinter family.



April 14 at 8:19 PM



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Jane Metrano posted:

So many fond memories starting when we were kids together and then staying close even when we lived far away from each other. Paul was the first of our family members to help me with our new baby when we were in the Navy! I remember him holding her when she was fussy and I needed a rest. He was such a thoughtful person his whole life!

April 14 at 7:03 PM



Becky Nash-Ryder April 18 at 1:14 PM

Paul was the friend you could count on, to listen, and definitely a Giver. I will miss you. Hug In The Dark Becky ❤️



Dave Metrano posted:

The first time I met Paul was when he came to visit me when I was stationed of the USS Fulton (AS!!). He just got out of boot camp and told me he was my wife's cousin. I looked at him and said to myself "who is this kid?". Well, it tuned out that he was a great person, and a true friend. We had a lot of laughs together. We will all miss his sense of humor and his good nature. Rest your oars sailor, we have the watch!

April 14 at 6:08 PM



Rose Backus April 15 at 3:26 AM

Mary Ann and family! was not blessed to have ever met your dear brother, Paul. I know you and your family and know that you are always there for anyone that needs your help. I pray for you and ask God to bless you all during this time. So sorry for the loss of your dear brother.



Anonymous sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the DeWinter family.



April 14 at 4:14 PM



Media

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Tiana shared 2 photos to the **Memories Album** album.

July 30 at 8:42 AM



Gentry Morrison shared a video to the **Graveside Service Video** album.

April 19 at 7:06 AM



Graveside Service Video



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Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes shared 5 photos to the **Memories Album** album.

April 15 at 4:38 AM



New Photo



Maryanne Stevens April 19 at 6:47 PM

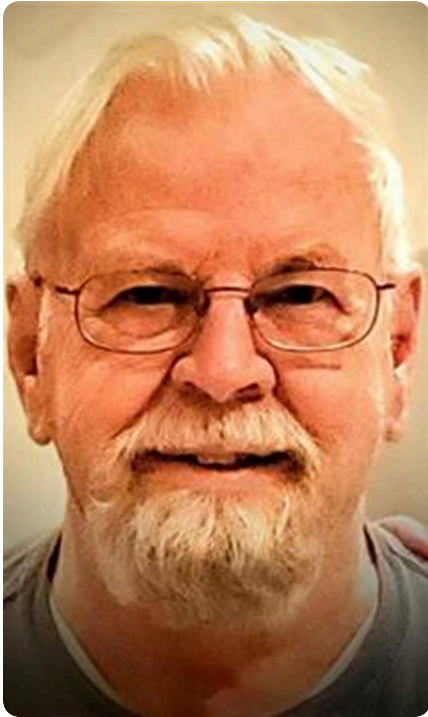
St. Joseph Emmaus Women's dinner theater.



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New Photo



Maryanne Stevens June 20 at 5:06 AM

Love and Miss you Bro.



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New Photo



Maryanne Stevens April 19 at 6:43 PM

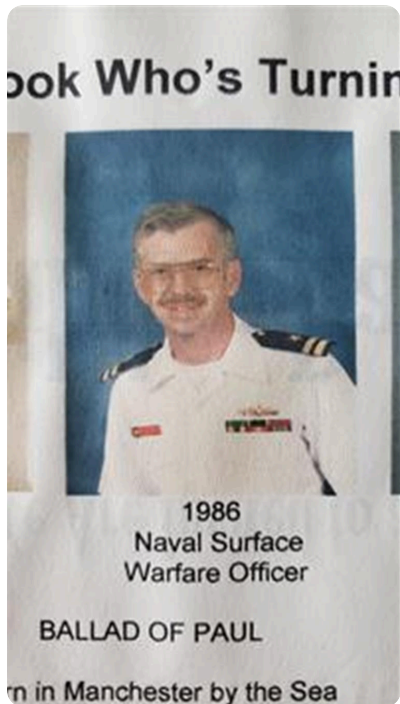
November 11, 2011 Wedding of Paul and Katherine Suzanne Campbell Jarrett.



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New Photo



New Photo



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Paul by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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